

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PRS-01 IO-13 AF-10 H-03 IGA-02

AID-20 SS-15 NSC-10 PA-03 USIE-00 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00

L-03 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /148 R

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S/PRS:CBRAY (INFO)

IO/P:FBLACHLY

AF/P:BRUSSELL

H:KFOLGER

EUR/P:ESAVAGE

NEA/INS - MR. LAINGEN

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O 181940Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 18,
1973:

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Q. HAVE THE TALKS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND MRS. GHANDI ALREADY STARTED? AND IF SO, COULD YOU GIVE US A READOUT OF WHAT HAPPENED AT THE FIRST SESSION?

A. WELL, THEY DID TALK YESTERDAY. THERE WAS A MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND MRS. GHANDI.

WHILE I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO ALL OF THE SPECIFICS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, THEY DID TALK ABOUT THE RUPEE QUESTION AND POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

Q. THIS, THEN, MARKS THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE THE RUPEE QUESTION WITH THEM?

A. IT'S BEEN DISCUSSED, PROBABLY BEFORE WITH THE INDIANS IN A GENERAL WAY, BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THIS MIGHT MARK THE BEGINNING OF A MORE FORMAL BEGINNING TO A STUDY OF THE RUPEE QUESTION.

Q. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE AFGHAN SITUATION TODAY?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN. THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION IS UNDER STUDY.

Q. WELL, DOES THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION ARISE?

A. IT'S UNDER STUDY.

Q. IS THAT BECAUSE THE SITUATION IS STILL UNCLEAR, OR WHAT?

A. THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION IS ONE ON WHICH NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AS OF THIS TIME.

Q. ARE CONTACTS CONTINUING BETWEEN THE U.S. EMBASSY IN KABUL AND THE NEW REGIME?

A. WELL WE STILL HAVE OUR EMBASSY THERE. I AM SURE THAT THERE ARE SOME OF THE DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS. FOR EXAMPLE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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I AM AWARE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN KABUL DID APPROACH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY "THE GOVERNMENT" WHICH ONE IS IT?

A. WELL, THE ONE THAT IS IN PLACE.

Q. THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT?

A. THE ONE THAT'S IN PLACE NOW.

Q. WAS THE UNITED STATES ONE OF THE GOVERNMENTS
APPROACHED?

A. WELL, IT WAS THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, --

Q. IS THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN KABUL ASKING OTHER NATIONS
TO MAKE SOME KIND OF POSITIVE STATEMENT THAT THEY RECOG-
NIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN KABUL AS THE LEGAL GOVERN-
MENT -- IS THAT RIGHT?

A. YES.

Q. WHO IS DOING THE STUDYING IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT? IS
IT THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISOR?

A. WELL, IN MATTERS OF THIS KIND, IT WOULD INVOLVE VARI-
OUS PARTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. --

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONTACT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN
OFFICIALS AND THE KING, IN ITALY?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q. THE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM TO AFGHANISTAN -- HAS THAT
BEEN CONTINUING DURING THE STUDY PERIOD?

A. YES.

Q. WHAT WAS THE U.S. EMBASSY RESPONSE TO THIS APPROACH?

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A. WELL, WE HAVEN'T RESPONDED.

GIVEN BELOW IS GUIDANCE GIVEN TO SPOKESMAN BUT NOT USED

Q. DID HE TELL HER WE WERE ACCEDING TO INDIA'S REQUEST
TO END U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS?

A. AS I SAID, WE DON'T COMMENT ON SPECIFICS OF OUR TALKS.
BY WAY OF BACKGROUND I CAN SAY THAT THE INDIANS DURING
1972 REVIEWED EXISTING U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS
AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THOSE PREVIOUS PROJECTS WOULD BE
GRADUALLY PHASED OUT. THAT IS WHERE THINGS STAND AT LEAST
FOR THE PRESENT.

Q. DID HE ALSO TALK ABOUT THE AID HOUSING COMPLEX?

A. YES BUT AS I HAVE ALREADY SAID, I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO DETAILS. THESE ARE MATTERS OF CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

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